

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 00626 152248Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /051 W
-----152259Z 047125 /75-61

R 152059Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5145
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 0626

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SOPN,PINT, CA
SUBJECT: RETIRING DIRECTOR OF CANADIAN USW ON QUEBEC SEPARATISM

1. WILLIAM MAHONEY, RETIRING DIRECTOR OF CANADIAN UNITED STEELWORKERS

UNION, CALLED ON HIS QUEBECKER SUCCESSOR, GERRY DOCQUIER, WHO HAS DESCRIBED HIMSELF AS NEITHER FEDERALIST NOR SEPARATIST, TO SPEAK OUT IN FAVOR OF CONFEDERATION: "HE'S GOT TO SAY HE'S OPPOSED TO SEPARATISM TO BE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE STEELWORKERS", MAHONEY TOLD THE TORONTO STAR IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED MARCH 15.

2. OTHERS WHO BELIEVE IN A UNITED CANADA SHOULD ALSO SPEAK UP "STRONGLY AND CLEARLY" AS DID PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU IN WASHINGTON, ACCORDING TO MAHONEY. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THEY SHOULD NOT THREATEN QUEBEC WITH "ECONOMIC CHAOS", BUT SHOULD "ESTABLISH THE FACT THERE IS NOTHING REASONABLE QUEBECKERS CAN'T DO WITHIN CONFEDERATION."

3. MAHONEY CITED THE USW IN CANADA AS A POSSIBLE MODEL FOR THE CONFEDERATION. "THE QUEBEC STEELWORKERS (WHICH INCLUDES THE MARITIME PROVINCES IN DISTRICT 5) HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF AUTONOMY. THEY ELECT THEIR OWN LEADERS, CARRY ON THEIR WORK IN FRENCH
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AND ENGLISH, AND GENERALLY REGARD THEMSELVES, AND ARE REGARDED BY US, AS QUITE COMPETENT TO RUN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. THE QUEBEC STEELWORKERS GAIN STRENGTH FROM ASSOCIATION WITH THE REST OF US. OUR ROLE IS TO SUPPLY TECHNICAL HELP....I VENTURE TO SUGGEST THAT ANY SERIOUS QUERY WITH OUR PEOPLE IN QUEBEC WOULD FIND THEY LIVE HAPPILY WITHIN OUR UNION. THAT'S JUST BECAUSE WE DON'T TRY TO DOMINATE THEM."

DIGGINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LOBBYING, POLICIES, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, LABOR UNIONS, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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